

Apparently, the airlines feel they haven't done enough to make air travel as unpleasant as possible, so now they're pushing a plan to let some cell-phone jerk sit in the seat next to you and yammer non-stop at high volume about nothing for two or three hours as you fly across the country. That's a definition of hell...and it's a sure-fire set-up for some air rage at 30,000 feet.

On practically every flight these days you'll encounter cell-phone idiots, barking self-importantly into their little chunks of plastic. It's pathetic, and the more pathetic they are, the louder they talk, annoying passengers for several rows around.

The saving grace has been that the noise ceases once the plane takes off. But the airlines are now seeking regulatory approval for new technology that will let the noisy ones natter into their cell phones clear across the country. It's going to get ugly up there if this thing goes through.

A few hours of flight time is one of the last sanctuaries of cell-phone silence in our harried world. Must we fill it with infuriating motor-mouths just because it's technologically possible?